

States House of Representatives, to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress, and to the governor of the state of Louisiana.

POM-258. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the Turtle Excluder Device regulations; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 12

Whereas, due to the protection of the beaches on Rancho Nuevo, Mexico, the number of documented nests of the endangered Kemp's Ridley sea turtle has increased to nearly four thousand from a low of about seven hundred in 1985; and

Whereas, the sea turtle population has increased to the point where modifications of turtle excluder device (T.E.D.S) regulations are feasible without causing detriment to the increasing turtle population; and

Whereas, the Louisiana shrimping industry views current T.E.D. regulations as a direct threat to their industry; and

Whereas, commercial shrimp trawl vessel licenses have dropped from a high of approximately thirty-two thousand in 1987, just prior to the T.E.D. regulations, to a present-day low of approximately fifteen thousand. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to pursue other viable alternatives to present T.E.D. regulations, including, but not limited to seasonal exemptions, where there is a low presence of the Kemp Ridley turtle in the winter season; and area exemptions where there has been no historical evidence of Kemp Ridley populations; and an industry funded recovery program; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate and the clerk of the United States House of Representatives and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-259. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana relative to the National Resource Conservation Service; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION No. 60

Whereas, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), formerly the Soil Conservation Service, has been providing technical assistance to Louisiana's landowners and land managers since 1935; and

Whereas, such technical assistance has been provided through formal working agreements with each of Louisiana's forty-three soil and water conservation districts; and

Whereas, a science-based, multidisciplinary workforce's no-cost assistance has been instrumental to the development of Louisiana's productive cropland, pasture land, and forests; and

Whereas, NRCS has generally provided services and funds to the people of Louisiana through the soil and water conservation districts at a ratio of approximately ten federal dollars for each state dollar; and

Whereas, Louisiana landowners and land managers are besieged by regulations and enforcement actions related to clean air, clean water, wetland protection and restoration, animal waste management, nutrient and pesticide management, riparian area protection, and other environmental requirements; and

Whereas, the technical assistance that NRCS provides is critical to our state's land-

owners' continuing compliance with these complex environmental laws and regulations; and

Whereas, private landowners and land managers control over eighty percent of Louisiana's land, and their understanding and application of sound conservation practices to their land is essential to maintain its productivity; and

Whereas, these sound conservation practices constitute an important non-point source environmental protection program on a statewide and national basis; and

Whereas, the president of the United States has proposed a budget that in effect would reduce NRCS field service staff by over 1,050 nationwide with a possible twenty-five reduction in Louisiana's field staff; and

Whereas, this potential reduction in field service staff would severely weaken the state and national non-point source environmental protection program, and the resulting impact of the reduced availability of technical assistance would likely lead to increased violations by private landowners. Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana memorializes the Congress of the United States to restore any budget reductions affecting NRCS in order that it can adequately serve the conservation and environmental needs of Louisiana; and be it further

Resolved, That this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, the secretary of the United States Department of Agriculture, and the president of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, with amendments:

S. 348: A bill to authorize and facilitate a program to enhance training, research and development, energy conservation and efficiency, and consumer education in the oilheat industry for the benefit of oilheat consumers and the public, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-109).

By Mr. THOMPSON, from the Committee on Government Affairs, with amendments:

S. 746: A bill to provide for analysis of major rules, to promote the public's right to know the costs and benefits of major rules, and to increase the accountability of quality of Government (Rept. No. 106-110).

By Mr. MCCAIN, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment and an amendment to the title:

S. 937: A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2000 and 2001 for certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-111).

By Mr. ROTH, from the Committee on Finance:

Report to accompany the bill (S. 1387) to extend certain trade preference to sub-Saharan African countries (Rept. No. 106-112).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, with an amendment to the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 695: A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a national cemetery for veterans in the Atlanta, Georgia, metropolitan area (Rept. No. 106-113).

By Mr. SPECTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, without amendment:

S. 1402: An original bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance programs providing education benefits for veterans, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 106-114).

By Mr. MURKOWSKI, from the Committee on Finance, with an amendment and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 1833: A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2000 and 2001 for the United States Customs Service for drug interdiction and other operations, for the Office of the United States Trade Representative, for the United States International Trade Commission, and for other purposes.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second time by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. TORRICELLI (for himself and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 1394. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the U.S.S. New Jersey, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BAUCUS:

S. 1395. A bill to require the United States Trade Representative to appear before certain congressional committees to present the annual National Trade Estimate; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. FITZGERALD:

S. 1396. A bill to amend section 4532 of title 10, United States Code, to provide for the coverage and treatment of overhead costs of United States factories and arsenals when not making supplies for the Army, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ENZI (for himself and Mr. THOMAS):

S. 1397. A bill to provide for the retention of the name of the geologic formation known as "Devil's Tower" at the Devils Tower National Monument in the State of Wyoming; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. HELMS:

S. 1398. A bill to clarify certain boundaries on maps relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DEWINE (for himself, Mr. DODD, Ms. SNOWE, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. REID, Mrs. BOXER, Mr. INOUE, Mr. SARBANES, Mr. KENNEDY, and Mr. WELLSTONE):

S. 1399. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide that pay adjustments for nurses and certain other health-care professionals employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs shall be made in the manner applicable to Federal employees generally and to revise the authority for the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make further locality pay adjustments for those professionals; to the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

By Mrs. BOXER (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. SCHUMER):

S. 1400. A bill to protect women's reproductive health and constitutional right to choice, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Mr. MACK, Mrs. BOXER, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, and Mr. BINGAMAN):